

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Mercedes E. Gill et al.

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Title: APPARATUS AND METHODOLOGY FOR AN INPUT PORT OF A SWITCH THAT SUPPORTS CUT-THROUGH OPERATION WITHIN THE SWITCH (As Amended)

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0030] beginning at page 10, with the following rewritten paragraph.

The general traffic flow for an incoming packet is to flow firstly from its link interface to its input port. Then, the packet flows from its input port to a switching core ~~208~~209 (which can be constructed with a crossbar switching architecture as suggested by **Figure 2**). The switching core ~~208~~209 switches the incoming packet from its input port to its appropriate output port; and, in so doing, effectively converts the incoming packet to an outgoing packet. For example, if an incoming packet from link 206₁ is to be emitted as an outgoing packet on link 206_n, the switching core ~~208~~209 will “switch” the packet from switching core input 213₁ to switching core output 210_n.

Please replace paragraph [0032] beginning at page 10, with the following rewritten paragraph.

The timing as to when an incoming packet is permitted to be switched by the switching core ~~208~~209 is controlled by the arbiter 208. In an embodiment, for each incoming packet, a request data structure is issued by the corresponding input port to the arbiter 208. For example, if link interface 207₁ sends a packet to input port 201₁, input port 201₁ issues a request data structure along request interface 211₁ to the arbiter 208. As a request data structure is issued for each incoming packet, the arbiter 208 effectively collects these requests and is able to develop an understanding of the overall offered load being presented to switch 205.